

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancel)

2. (Cancel)

3. (Cancel)

4. (Previously Presented) An optical multi-beam scanning device, comprising:
a plurality of light sources;

pre-deflection optical units for giving a predetermined property to light beams from
the light sources, the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources,
respectively;

an optical path synthesizing member for aligning optical paths of the light beams from
all or some of the light sources in a horizontal scanning direction after the pre-deflection
optical units give the predetermined properties to the light beams or while giving them to the
light beams;

an excessive light processing member having a multi-stage taper constitution with a
plurality of taper surfaces having different tilt angles for reflecting excessive light emitted
from an excessive light emitting surface which is not an incident surface nor an emitting
surface of the optical path synthesizing member; and

a light deflecting device for deflecting the light beams from the pre-deflection optical
units corresponding to the light sources to the horizontal scanning direction due to reflection
from one surface,

wherein the tilt angles of all the taper surfaces in the excessive light processing member are set so that reflected light from the taper surfaces reenter the excessive light emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member, and the reentered light beams have predetermined angles for passing through an upper or lower portion of an optical part present in a direction where the light beams emitted from the optical path synthesizing member advances.

5. (Previously Presented) An optical multi-beam scanning device, comprising:
 - a plurality of light sources;
 - pre-deflection optical units for giving a predetermined property to light beams from the light sources, the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources, respectively;
 - an optical path synthesizing member for aligning optical paths of the light beams from all or some of the light sources in a horizontal scanning direction after the pre-deflection optical units give the predetermined properties to the light beams or while giving them to the light beams;
 - an excessive light processing member having a multi-stage taper constitution with a plurality of taper surfaces having different tilt angles for reflecting excessive light emitted from an excessive light emitting surface which is not an incident surface nor an emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member; and
 - a light deflecting device for deflecting the light beams from the pre-deflection optical units corresponding to the light sources to the horizontal scanning direction due to reflection from one surface,
 - wherein the tilt angles of some taper surfaces in the excessive light processing member are set so that reflected light from the taper surfaces does not enter the excessive light emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member, and the tilt angles of the other taper surfaces are set so that the reflected light from the taper surfaces reenters the excessive light emitting surface of the optical path synthesizing member and the reentered light beams have predetermined angles for passing through an upper or lower portion of an optical part present in a direction where the light beams emitted from the optical path synthesizing member advances.

6 – 19 (Canceled).

20. (New) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 4, wherein the excessive light processing member has the taper surfaces with different angles whose number is the same as that of the optical paths.

21. (New) The optical multi-beam scanning device according to claim 5, wherein the excessive light processing member has the taper surfaces with different angles whose number is the same as that of the optical paths.